

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 79-03**

**PARTICIPATION BY DISABLED CITIZENS**

**WHEREAS**, the active participation by disabled people in employment, housing, education, transportation and other opportunities of community life is important for the economic and social well-being of Washington State; and

**WHEREAS**, architectural, mobility, communication and other barriers interfere with the ability of people with disabilities to find and hold jobs, move freely, and actively participate in activities of daily living; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the policy of this state to support a goal of maximum independence for its elderly and disabled citizens, and to, **THEREFORE**, encourage as barrier free and accessible an environment as possible, consistent with existing state and federal legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, the activities and functions of state government should be open to all citizens of the state, regardless of disability or other circumstances.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Dixy Lee Ray, Governor of the state of Washington, by virtue of the power vested in me do hereby solemnly swear for all Washington State agencies, the following policy:

All meetings, hearings, and conferences held by state employees shall be held, to the greatest extent feasible, in hotels, motels, restaurants, state facilities and other locations that are free of mobility barriers, and interpreters for deaf individuals and brailled or taped information for blind individuals shall be provided by the sponsor of the meeting, hearing or conference upon request when adequate notice is given.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the State of Washington to be affixed at Olympia this 21st day of June A.D., Nineteen hundred and seventy-nine.

Dixy Lee Ray  
Governor of Washington

**BY THE GOVERNOR:**

Deputy Secretary of State

---